

ROSS ALLAN WILLIAMS FOR THE
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ross Allan Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to build a new enclosed dugout on the third base side for the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fourth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ross Allan Williams for his accomplishments and for his efforts put with the Boy Scouts of America forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO SIMPLIFY THE TAX AND
ELIMINATE THE DRAWBACK FEE
ON CERTAIN DISTILLED SPIRITS
USED IN NON-BEVERAGE PROD-
UCTS MANUFACTURED IN A U.S.
FOREIGN TRADE ZONE OR DO-
MESTIC USE AND EXPORT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill designed to equalize the competitive playing field between domestic and foreign users of certain distilled spirits used in the manufacture or production of non-beverage products.

Non-beverage products include medicines, medicinal products, food products, flavors, flavoring extracts and perfumes, all of which are unfit for beverage purposes.

The bill does this by allowing users that demonstrate to the Treasury Department that they are producing non-beverage products in a U.S. Foreign Trade Zone to avoid the excise tax on distilled spirits, which a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage product that uses distilled spirits does not pay.

A Foreign Trade Zone is a restricted-access site authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and supervised by U.S. Customs where companies can use special Customs procedures for importing and exporting materials and finished products. Zones are located in or adjacent to a Customs port of entry and operated pursuant to public utility principles under the sponsorship of a corporation granted authority by the Commerce Department pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act and regulations.

Authorized companies, of which there are many in New Jersey, therefore will be subject to continuous regulation by the Commerce and Treasury Departments as well as Customs.

The bill preserves necessary safeguards for the government as it monitors which compa-

nies use distilled spirits for beverage purposes and which companies use them for non-beverage purposes.

Such companies will be required to file regular reports with the Department of Treasury showing that the distilled spirits are used in the manufacture of non-beverage products. Currently, such manufacturers pay an excise tax of \$13.50 per proof gallon and then must file for "drawback" with the burden on the claimant to show eligibility for drawback.

Under the drawback procedure, the government rebates all but \$1 per proof gallon, charging the companies a \$1 administration fee. Companies subject to this procedure can have considerable cash flow tied up in this process for an appreciable period of time. Again, a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage products is not subject to such tax and consequently, is not burdened by the need to file for drawback.

The imposition of this tax and burdensome drawback process on American manufacturers and producers put them at a competitive disadvantage, which I believe we should eliminate, while preserving the integrity of the government process to monitor the use of distilled spirits.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN COUNTY AND
FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Martin County, MN on two milestones it is celebrating this weekend: the sesquicentennial celebration of Martin County and the city of Fairmont, Minnesota, and the centennial celebration of the Martin County Courthouse.

Martin County was founded 150 years ago, on May 23, 1857. The county was named after Henry Martin of Wallingford, Connecticut, who was a resident of Mankato at the time.

The first permanent residents of what is now Fairmont, Minnesota were two men named E. Banks Hall and William H. Budd. In June of 1857, they built their homes beside two lakes that today are named—appropriately enough—Budd Lake and Hall Lake.

The town's original name was Fair Mount, which was later changed to Fairmont. Fifty years after the founding of Martin County, the County Courthouse was commissioned.

Construction on the Martin County Courthouse was completed on November 1, 1907: The building is built from Michigan sandstone and Indiana limestone and is topped by a dome that stands 108 feet above the ground.

The total cost of constructing the Courthouse—including furniture, plumbing and decorations—was just under \$125,000.

Today, this Courthouse is the jewel of the city of Fairmont, where it sits overlooking Lake Sisseton.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Martin County Courthouse has made many changes, but it has not lost its original beauty.

I am pleased to join the State of Minnesota in congratulating Martin County and Fairmont, Minnesota on this important milestone. And I wish them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALLY BAILEY
FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE
PROTECTION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wally Bailey, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and his group's recent visit to Capitol Hill during this year's annual recognition of Building Safety Week. On May 9, Mr. Bailey led a delegation of members of the International Code Council to meet with Congress to discuss nationally focused concerns in building safety and fire prevention. This year ICC's delegation focused specifically on a proposal to create a Community Building Code Administration Grant Program, and Mr. Bailey spoke to me persuasively of how this program would expand and support the quality and effectiveness of building code and fire code administration in underserved areas of our country.

Mr. Bailey serves as President of the Board of Directors of the International Code Council, a volunteer role to which he was elected in national leadership of a membership association of over 42,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals. It is this group that develops the building and fire codes that are in use all across our country for the construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the business, schools, and places of worship we visit regularly. These codes, created and maintained through a voluntary consensus development process, are in use by over 22,000 U.S. jurisdictions, including those who govern the quality, safety and energy efficiency of building construction at the local, State and Federal levels.

For the past three decades, Mr. Bailey has been a tireless advocate for building safety through superior building codes and effective building code administration. As the Director of Development and Construction for the City of Fort Smith, he supervises activities of a multi-disciplined department that governs codes administration, inspections, plan review, property maintenance, historic preservation and land development. As a matter of note, two years ago he celebrated a quarter century of service to the City.

Since 1999, in addition to his work with the City of Fort Smith, Mr. Bailey has served in leadership positions with the ICC, culminating in his present role as President of the Board. Besides his being a distinguished citizen of my District, in my opinion, ICC's membership elected a leader who is an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2007, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board Vice President Steven Shapiro, Board Secretary/Treasurer Adolph Zubia, Immediate Past President of the Board Henry Green; Board members Gregori Anderson, Edwin Berkel, James Brothers, John Darnall, William Dupler, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn,